

SENATE BILL 3456

By Marrero B

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-22-105, relative to funding for Drug Court Treatment Programs.

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the State of Tennessee finds that reducing drug related crime would greatly improve the safety and well being of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly takes notice of Drug Courts being a cost effective way to improve safety by treating addiction to drugs and alcohol thus reducing an offender's footprint on the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that drug courts are an under funded component of the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly has determined that focusing on rehabilitation over incarceration is a logical way to improve government's performance in the area of public safety; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds that protecting public safety and preserving order is a primary obligation of government and essential for the continual improvement of education, orderly delivery of healthcare, efficient transaction of commerce and preservation of freedom; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated Section 16-22-105 is amended by adding the following subsection:

(7) Providing annual operating funds in an amount not less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) for any drug court within the state that has an average active outpatient participation of two hundred and fifty (250) clients.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.